

Synopsis

"THE STING OF THE LASH".

An R-C Picture,

*Written* By Harvey <sup>W.</sup> Gates.

Adapted to the screen by

H. Tipton Steck.

*Directed by Henry King*

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by

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R-C Pictures Corporation.

Complete Synopsis

The Sting of the Lash.

When Dorothy Keith (Pauline Frederick), pretty and petted daughter of wealthy Daniel Keith (Edwin Stevens), a widower, came into the drawing room of their beautiful home one evening she found her father and several of his men friends looking very glum. She is finally informed that her father is on the verge of bankruptcy. Instead of being completely crushed, resourceful Dorothy cheers her father by telling him they will just sell all they have and go West to visit his cousin, Ben Ames (Lionel Belmore), forgetting the past and acquiring a new interest in life.

Arrived at their destination in the West father and daughter are met by a man from Ames ranch. Rounding a curve in the road their automobile crashes into a huge boulder which has fallen across the path, and Daniel Keith is killed. Kneeling by the side of her father in this far-off wilderness, friendless and alone, the chauffeur having gone on for help, Dorothy raises her tragic white face to see a stranger near her looking at her with much compassion. He is Joel Gant (Clyde Fillmore), a sturdy, honest young man who has been tioling for several years on a little mining claim which he owns himself, always hoping that he may yet strike it rich. He comforts the girl and helps get her father's body to the Ames ranch.

After the first shock of her grief has worn off Dorothy developed a great liking for this young, bronzed Westerner who is so different from the men she has known in the East. One night he confides to her that he is worried because he cannot make the final payment on his claim. After Clyde has gone Dorothy tells Ben Ames of the young man's difficulty hoping Ames will loan him the necessary



money. Ames smiles indulgently and promises to think it over. Dorothy, radiantly happy, dreams of Joel Gant and the honeymoon on the plains which they are planning. Soon after, they are married and ride away on their horses to spend two wonderful weeks camping. Dorothy finds her Westerner all that she had dreamed and hoped he would be, but the first discord comes when on the return from the honeymoon Dorothy gets a sample of Joel's violent temper.

The two arrive at Joel's claim and are about to cross it when they are stopped by armed guards. They are informed that the claim has been taken up and turned over to a big developing company which owns nearly all the land in which Ben Ames is interested. Joel's failure to meet the final payment is given as the reason. Immediately Joel realizes that Ames has betrayed him. In a fury he wheels his horse and starts down the road. To Dorothy's frightened question "Where are you going?", he savagely replied: "To kill Ben Ames." After a startled moment the girl hurried after him. She arrived just in time to see Ames come hurtling through the door of his office, her husband, his fists clenched following. Before the two men could come together again Dorothy threw herself between them, looking Ames straight in the eyes.

"Joel is coming home with me now", she said quietly, for she knew it was in Ames' mind to have Joel arrested if she did not get him away. She knew also that Ben realized the low trick he had played on Joel and would not care to have the townspeople know. Surely and stubborn, yet unable to resist Dorothy's pleading Joel Gant mounted his horse and rode silently away with his bride.

Four years passed. Years filled with poverty and hardship such as the gently-reared Eastern girl had never known. Brooding

over the wrong done him by the mining company Joel Gant started to drink and what little money he did make was gained by an illicit boot-legging trade. He delighted to sell the fiery liquor to the employees of the hated mining company. Compelled to earn a living for themselves and little Crissy (Evelyn Mc Coy) Joel's orphan niece who lives with them, Dorothy takes in washing and delivers it on a decrepit old white nag. While on one of these humiliating journeys through the town, her basket of clean clothes on her arm, she is seen by Mr. Rhodes, (Lawson Butt), the lawyer for the mining company. He hears her tragic story and his heart is touched with pity. He has recently come from the East and does not know of the trick played on Joel. Intent on offering Joel a good job as mining engineer with the company he calls at the Gant cottage.

His offer means a new life for them and Dorothy can hardly wait until Joel's return to tell him of it. But as soon as he comes slouching in she sees he has been drinking and fearfully she sees him sneer at Rhodes and scornfully reject the proffered position. Moreover, he insinuates that Dorothy is the real reason of Rhodes' call. Humiliated, bitterly disappointed, Dorothy sees Rhodes leave and looks despairingly about at the poor little home and her drunken husband who has lost all semblance to the clear-eyed, staunch man she married.

Even yet her love for her husband is not dead. She looks at him more in sorrow and regret than in anger but Joel flings himself out of the house. More drink and sly whispers from the men concerning Rhodes' afternoon visit to his home infuriate Joel and he staggers home at night in a dangerous state. After a hard day's work Dorothy is piling freshly-ironed clothes on the table. With a sneering laugh her husband pushes them on the floor. Next he is annoyed by the



crying of Crissy. Seizing a rawhide whip from the wall he starts for the bedroom intent on punishing her. But before he has time to lift a hand against the child he confronts the flaming face of his wife. Righteous indignation makes steady the hand which holds a loaded pistol pointed straight at him. In cold, steady tones she gives orders to the whimpering Crissy.

Under orders from Dorothy the child gets a long rope and binds Joel's wrists tightly together with one end. He is furious but helpless with the gun leveled at him. Then the other end of the rope is thrown over a beam. With Dorothy and Crissy both pulling on the rope Joel Gant is soon strung up, his toes barely touching the floor. Her face white as marble but as set as stone Dorothy picks up the whip. Once, twice, many times it swings viciously through the air and each time it descends it leaves a raw, red welt on the man's back. Finally, when his shirt is cut to ribbons and her own strength is exhausted, this girl who was once a hot house flower of society, cuts the rope and lets him fall to the floor.

Then, woman like, she bathes his wounds. But while her back is turned Joel revives. Filled with hatred for the woman who has so humiliated him, stealthily he reaches for the whip. Just as he is about to strike his wife the door opens and Ben Ames walks in with a pair of hand-cuffs which he promptly clasps on Joel's wrists telling him he is under arrest for boot legging. And thus Dorothy watches the man who has dragged her down to poverty and degradation disappear out of her life.

Soon after she accepts the offer from Rhodes, the mining attorney, to go East and accept a good position in the company offices,

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A year passes, a year filled with work and interest for Dorothy who grows young and happy looking again in her new environment. Rhodes is plainly in love with her--yet the memory of the man Joel Gant was when she married him still haunts Dorothy. One day a telegram comes from Ben Ames that Gant has been released from prison and is on his way East. That very evening when Dorothy returns home from work she is confronted by her husband who has sneaked in through the window. He has evidently come to make trouble. His year in prison has not changed him for the better. Unflinchingly his wife looks him in the eyes and calmly tells him that she is going to divorce him; he is no longer worthy a woman's loyal love. As the Man's hand goes back to his hip pocket for a revolver the woman continues to look him calmly in the eyes:

"You coward! Go ahead and shoot", she says. Joel's hand comes away from his pocket--empty. For the first time he seems to see himself as he really is. Humbly he bows his head and starts for the window.

"Not that way--through the door like a man, Joel", directs his wife. He does as she orders. On the way out he passes Rhodes coming to call, but in his sudden self-revelation Joel feels he has not time to interfere. He takes the next train West.

Rhodes asks Dorothy to marry him, but she gently refuses him. Soon after the mining company sends her on an important mission West. She finds Joel in the employ of the company rapidly making good,-- the same Joel Gant she married and with whom she spent the happy honeymoon on the plains. Joyfully she realizes that her severe treatment has made a man of him. She gives no sign of what she is thinking, however, and Gant supposes she is through with him. One



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evening Dorothy surprises him in his cabin with Crissy, his niece  
At last she lets him see that her love for him has never died through  
all the tragic years and the man, at last awakened to his own folly  
and weakness and her sublime goodness, humbly takes her in his arms  
with the resolve to forevermore be worthy.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS.

<u>DOROTHY KEITH</u> .....	<u>PAULINE FREDERICK</u>
<u>JOEL GANT</u> .....	<u>CLYDE FILLMORE</u>
<u>RHODES</u> .....	<u>LAWSON BUTT</u>
<u>BEN AMES</u> .....	<u>LIONEL BELMORE</u>
<u>SEELEY</u> .....	<u>JACK RICHARDSON</u>
<u>DANIEL KEITH</u> .....	<u>EDWIN STEVENS</u>
<u>CRISSY (at six)</u> .....	<u>BETTY HALL</u>
<u>CRISSY (at ten)</u> .....	<u>EVELYN MC COY</u>
<u>RORKE</u> .....	<u>PERCY CHALLENGER</u>

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WASHINGTON, D. C.  
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SEP -2 1921

September 2, 1921

Register of Copyrights,  
Library of Congress,  
Washington, D.C.

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of copyright in the name of  
Robertson-Cole

THE STING OF THE LASH (6 reels)

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI.

The Robertson-Cole Company hereby  
acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the motion  
picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright  
Office as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
THE STING OF THE LASH	9/2/1921	L ©CIL 16924

Copies Returned

12 SEP 14 1921

Bk. D. *[Signature]* P. 1130

The return of the above copies was requested by the said company, by its agent and attorney, on the 2 day of September and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself and as the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said company, hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies and the receipt thereof.

*[Signature]*  
FULTON BRYLAWSKI

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